

30. The Announcement of the Fall of Babylon

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain the number of man. We saw that the number of man shows that regardless of how powerful a person can become that he will still come short of the glory of God. In this topic, we will see that God announces that political and religious Babylon will soon fall which will be a main part of the preparation for the return of Christ to rule.

Revelation 13 told us that the people of the world will be required to have the number of the antichrist on their forehead, or their right hand, in order to buy or sell. In chapter 7, we saw that God placed His seal on one hundred forty-four thousand Jews so that Satan could not hurt them, because they will be the witnesses of God, to the world, during the period of the tribulation. That group of witnesses is mentioned again as we come to Revelation 14. Revelation 14:1-2 says, “Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.” In these verses, we see that the one hundred and forty-four thousand will be standing with the Lamb on Mount Zion.

Mount Zion is the highest hill in the city of Jerusalem. It was on this hill that the early city of Jerusalem was built. Later Mount Zion was used to talk about the entire city of Jerusalem. Psalm 48:1-2 says, “Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, *in* His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, *is* Mount Zion *on* the sides of the north, the city of the great King.” These verses explain that Mount Zion is the city of the great King which is the city of Jerusalem. We also see that this is the city where the Lord will reign over the earth and punish the fallen angels and unbelievers until the final judgment. Isaiah 24:21-23 says, “It shall come to pass in that day *that* the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones, and on the earth the kings of the earth. They will be gathered together, *as* prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; after many days they will be punished. Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously.”

The people of the nations will be forced to take the mark or seal of the antichrist but this group of one hundred and forty-four thousand will have the seal of God on their foreheads so that the antichrist cannot touch them. We know that Christ is our Lamb who paid the sacrifice for our sins so that we could receive forgiveness of sins. The fact that John saw Christ standing with the one hundred and forty-four thousand is a reminder that these are followers of Christ and will be witnesses for Him during the tribulation. John also heard a loud voice from heaven. This voice was like the sound of many waters or like loud thunder. A large waterfall is so loud you cannot even hear the shout of a person. The same thing happens when thunder is very loud. John also heard a group of harpists playing a song on their harps. This song is a new song.

Revelation 14:3-5 says, “They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four

thousand who were redeemed from the earth. These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.” Here, we see that as the harps play, the one hundred and forty-four thousand will be singing a new song that no one else can learn. The only ones who can learn this song will be the one hundred and forty-four thousand God has redeemed from the earth and placed His seal on, so that Satan cannot touch them.

We also see that the one hundred and forty-four thousand who have been sealed by God have not defiled themselves with women. 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 says, “Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” Here, we see that the one hundred and forty-four thousand understand the fact that their bodies are the temple of God. They will keep themselves pure from all sexual sin.

We see that the one hundred and forty-four thousand will follow Christ wherever He goes. This statement makes it clear that they will follow Christ even when they are hated by all those who refuse to repent and turn to Christ. Christ told his disciples the night before He was crucified in John 15:18-19, “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” That statement was certainly true for the early disciples. It will also be true for the one hundred and forty-four thousand during the tribulation. However, they are sealed by God so that the devil cannot touch them.

These verses show that the one hundred and forty-four thousand are the firstfruits to be redeemed to God and the Lamb during the period of the tribulation. The fact that they are called the firstfruits is due to the fact that they will turn to Christ early in the tribulation, while the rest of Israel will turn to God later in the tribulation. Romans 11:25-27 says, “For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’”

We see the way that the one hundred and forty-four thousand will speak as they speak for God during the tribulation. They will follow the example of Christ, which is given for us in 1 Peter 2:21-22, where we read: “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: ‘Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth’” Christ gave us an example to follow, and we see that the one hundred and forty-four thousand will also follow His example. In fact, we read that they are without fault before the throne of God. That is due to the fact that 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” They will be without fault because they will stand in the righteousness of Christ.

Revelation 14:6-8 goes on to say, “Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.’ And another angel followed, saying, ‘Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.’” In addition to the witness of the one hundred and forty-four thousand to the people on the earth, we see that an angel will be flying in the heavens preaching the Gospel to all of the people on the earth. This is a miracle of God, as He makes it possible for all of the people on the earth of every nation, tribe, tongue, and people to hear the message of the everlasting Gospel. This will make it possible for every person on earth, during the tribulation, to hear the Gospel and have one final opportunity to repent.

The angel will speak in a loud voice so that every person on earth can hear. This angel will invite all of the people of the earth to fear God and give glory to Him. Jude 1:22-23 says, “And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.” Throughout history, the Lord has used both His mercy and the fear of God to draw people to Himself. However, at this point in time, the angel is coming to announce that the hour of the judgment of God has come. In His mercy, God still gives the people one final opportunity to repent before His judgment comes.

This will be the last opportunity to turn and worship the One who created the heaven and the earth. We are also reminded that He is the Creator of the sea and the springs of water. Paul began with this same message when He spoke to the men of Athens. Acts 17:24-25 says, “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.” Instead of fearing the Creator of heaven and earth, the people will fear Satan and the antichrist. As a result, God gives this final opportunity to repent and fear God.

For all those who do not repent, we see that another angel will quickly follow who will say, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.” We will see, in the following chapters, that this destruction of Babylon will be the complete destruction of religious and commercial Babylon and the unbelieving people throughout the earth. Every person who rejects this final offer of salvation will be judged and taken off the earth along with the destruction of the religious, political, and commercial systems of the world. We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to understand and explain that God will continue to offer mercy, right up to the moment when judgment comes. However, those who wait too long will experience the judgment of God, because they have rejected the mercy of God. That is the same message people need to hear today so they can come to God, through Christ, in repentance and faith. May the Lord richly bless you as you equip your children to share this message of hope and warning of judgment.